# First Sunday of Advent



# Concordia Lutheran Church



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut, 06040

Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement

To be a welcoming and inviting community empowered by the Word of God; So that we may work for social justice and exhibit compassion for all

# **December 1, 2024**

\*\*Hearing devices for the service are available upon request - kindly contact an Usher\*\*

**Introduction:** Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

#### We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation

**Prelude:** 

*He Who Has Ears, Let Him Hear -* Jean Langlais

John Anderson, Organist

#### Welcome

# **Confessions and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

The assembly may kneel or be seated.

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha!\*\* **Come, Lord Jesus!** 

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!** 

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made. Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!**  We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!** 

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us A kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of the kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### All stand as able.

\*\*Maranatha is an Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke) phrase that can be translated as "Come, Lord!" It is used especially in the season of Advent when we call on the Lord to come again to set things right once more.

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God.

Gathering Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

As we encircle this wreath with blessing, as it is gradually illumined, let our hearts and minds be stirred up to greet your reign.

Rouse your household from its sleep, O God. Make us to beat our swords of war into plows that work in peace. Then nation will not lift up sword against nation and all your children will be ready to welcome your promised day of peace.

We welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.** 

Lighting of Advent CandleLight One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 1)ELW 240

#### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

#### Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

All are seated.

# THE WORD

#### God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song



The First Reading:

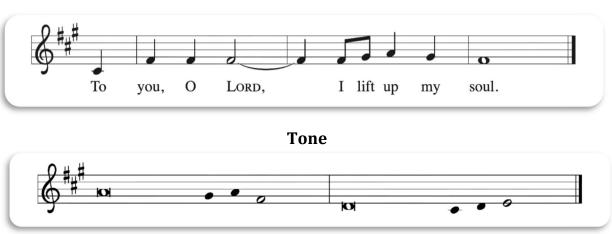
In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### The Psalm:

#### Psalm 25:1-10



 $^1\,\text{To}$  | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,

#### nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your | ways, O Lord, and teach | me your paths. R

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your <sup>|</sup> truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all <sup>|</sup> the day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,

# **for they are from** | **everlasting. R** <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth

and | my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- <sup>|</sup> ness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup> You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners | in your

#### way.

<sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup> All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R

#### **Second Reading:**

#### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

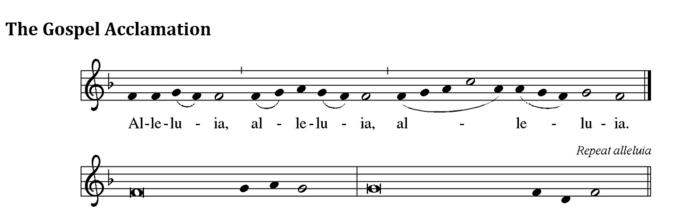
Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

All Stand as able.



Stand up and | raise your heads—\* your redemption is | drawing near. Alleluia. (Luke 21:28)

#### The Holy Gospel:

#### Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke... Glory to you, Oh Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

# The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All are seated.Pastor Rolf HedbergThe SermonPastor Rolf HedbergAll stand as able.Wake, Awake, for Night is FlyingHymn of the DayWake, Awake, for Night is Flying

# 🕂 Nicene Creed

Together with all the people of God, let us confess our faith: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.





## **Prayers of Intercession**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

#### A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.** 

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially those in our prayer list. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died especially those who have departed in the past year. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

#### receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

#### Amen.

#### **Exchange of Peace**

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** 

All are seated.

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. The Table is prepared.

## **Offertory Hymn**

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace* 

ELW 247

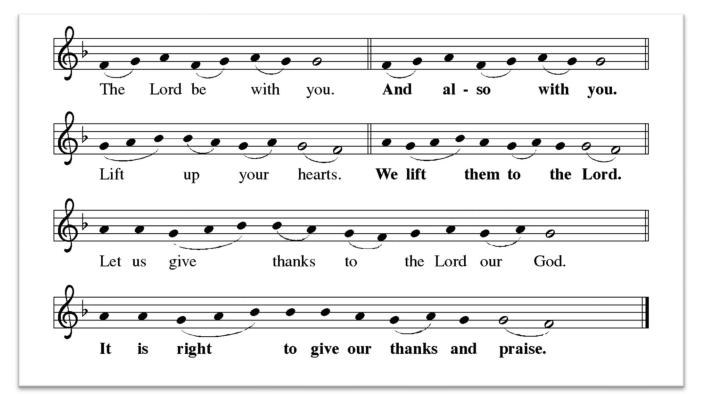
# **The Offering Prayer**

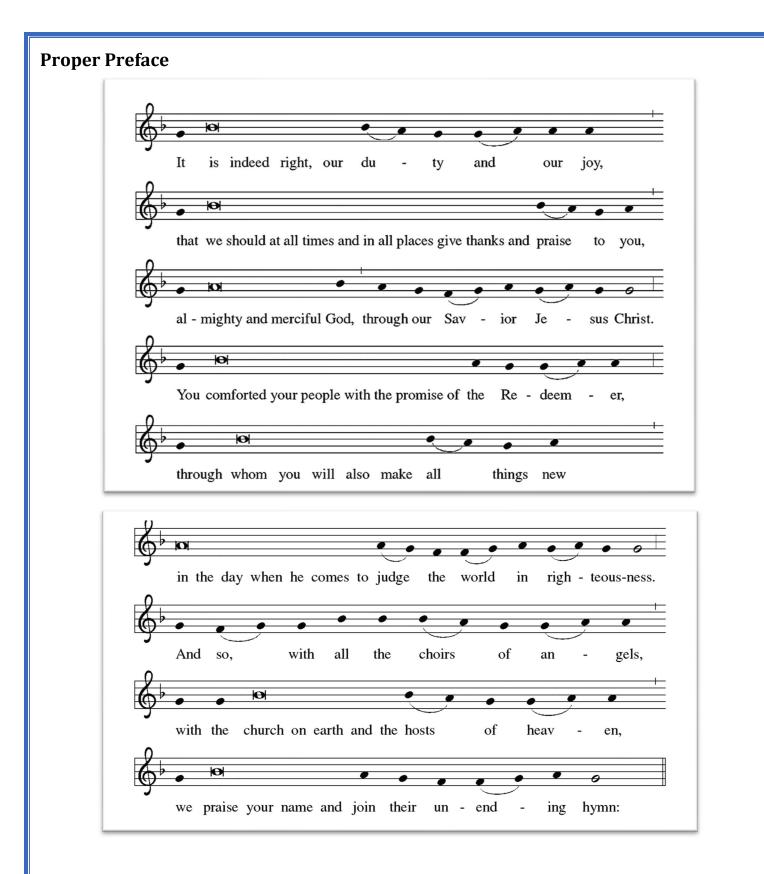
Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

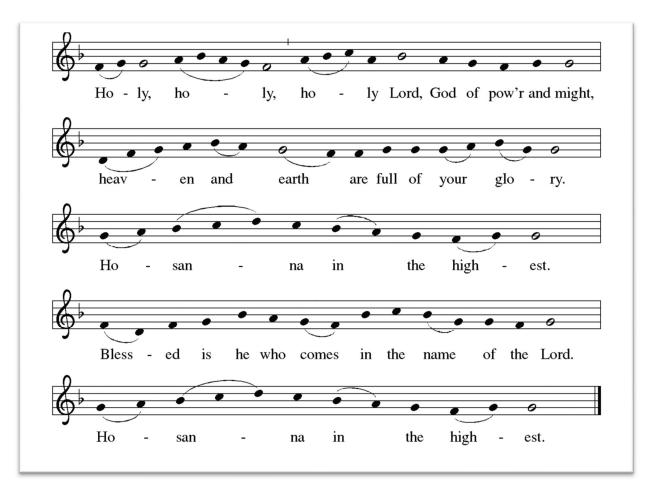
## Amen.

# Dialogue





# Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)





Eucharistic Prayer (Adapted from A New Zealand Give us courage, God our strength, Praver Book) To see your Christ in all who suffer. Creator God. To be hands to the helpless, We praise you for your love in coming to us, Food for the hungry, Unworthy though we are. And justice for the oppressed. Give us grace to accept the Christ who And so we remember, that in the night in comes in your name, which he was betrayed, and the courage to be Christ for others. our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; We praise and thank you Creator God, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: For you have not left us alone. Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Each year you come to us, Emmanuel, Do this for the remembrance of me. God with us in a manger. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave Each time you come to us thanks. in the broken bread and the cup we share. and gave it for all to drink, saying: In time or out of time you will be revealed This cup is the new covenant in my blood, And we shall see you face to face. shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



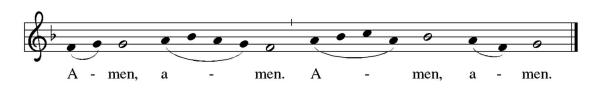
Therefore loving God,

recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

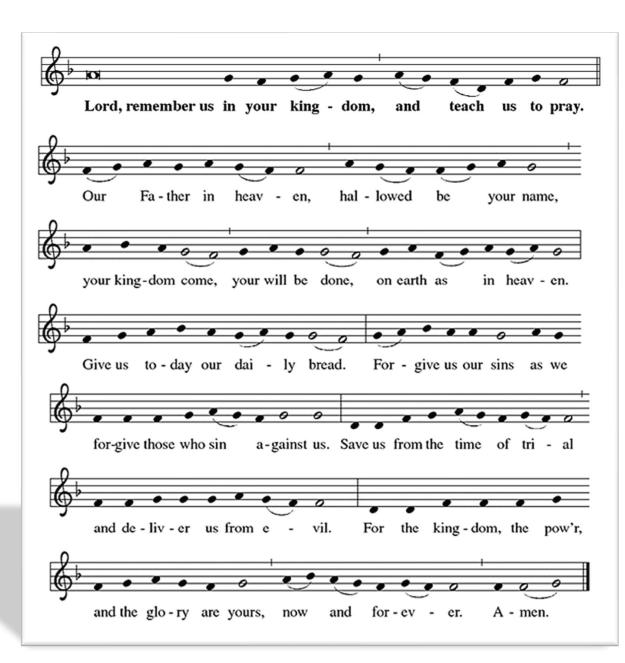
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service for your kingdom.

United with Christ with all the saints who stand before you in earth and heaven, with John the Baptist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever.



# The Lord's Prayer





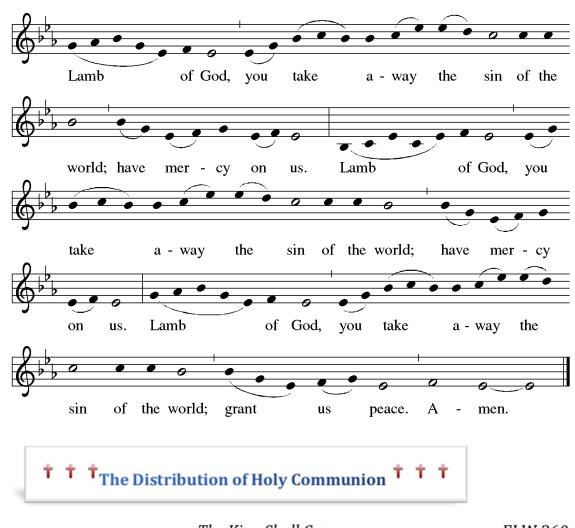


# **Invitation to Communion**

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

**Communion Song** 

Lamb of God



#### Anthem:

The King Shall Come

ELW 260

## **Blessing after Communion**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

#### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

#### Amen.

	SENDING			
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.				
Blessing				
God of endings and b God in the darkness a God, our hope for the + bless and keep you Amen.	and the light, journey,			
Sending HymnPeople, Look EastELW 245				
<b>Dismissal</b> Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>				
Postlude:Wake, Awake - Paul ManzJohn Anderson, Org		John Anderson, Organist		
	+ + + To God Be the Glory + + +			

# Serving in Worship Today

Presiding:Reverend Rolf HedbergUshers:Tina Sollinger-RuggerioOrganist:John Anderson

Assisting Mark Winzler Minister(s): Jeanine Barber

# Brief Announcements

- **†** Executive Committee, kindly join us right after Worship at Brandt Lounge for our *Executive Committee Meeting* after Worship.
- <sup>†</sup> The December 7th Pop-Up Shop **needs** *small, inexpensive stocking stuffer gifts* for men, women, and children. <u>We will box & decorate</u>. Please leave in Highland Park School basket in the rear of the church. **THANK YOU!**
- Pop Up Store are collecting (*throughout the whole school year*) healthy snacks for Highland Park Elementary School – please bring in healthy snacks with you to our next service!
- <sup>†</sup> Please check out the calendars & flyers for upcoming Concordia Lutheran Church and Community events!

	ember 2 – 8			
	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
	Psalm 90	Psalm 90	Psalm 90	Luke 1:68-79
	Numbers 17:1-11	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Isaiah 1:24-31	Malachi 3:5-12
	2 Peter 3:1-18	Revelation 22:12-16	Luke 11:29-32	Philippians 1:12-18a
	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent	
	Luke 11:68-79	Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9	
	Malachi 3:13-18	Malachi 4:1-6	Luke 1:68-79	
-	Philippians 1:18b-26	Luke 9:1-6	Philippians 1:3-11	
			Luke 3:1-6	
			Luke	3:1-6



Contact parish office for Prayer requests. Names will be held in prayer for one month, *unless otherwise requested*.

Date Requested	Praying For (person/family)	Prayers For	Requested By
11/24/2024	The family and friends of Eleanor Symecko	As they grieve the passing of Eleanor Symecko	Lanie Turner
11/17/2024	The Family of Megan Fleckenstein	As they grieve the passing of Megan Fleckenstein	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
11/14/2024	Andy Vincens	A swift and smooth recovery as he goes through rehab at Glastonbury Healthcare	Jan Salvatore
11/12/2024	The family of Sindi Pietrorazio	As they grieve the passing of Sindi Pietrorazio	Lanie Turner
11/6/2024	Andrew Troppman	Strength and hope and perserverance as he goes through chemotherapy	Carol & Phil Stoneman
10/29/2024	Jeanne and Al Williams	As they grieve the passing of Jeanne's mother, Lana Brown	Wendy Donagher
10/27/2024	Robert Feder	Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.	Gail Feder
10/27/2024	Dan Burnett	Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.	Carol Burnett

**NOTES**: The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Selected liturgical texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License.



For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

<sup>†</sup> Concordia Nursery School Students and their families.

**†** For Pastor Simpson and the people of New Horizons

now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon.

<sup>†</sup> For our Friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's

The Intentions of this Community;

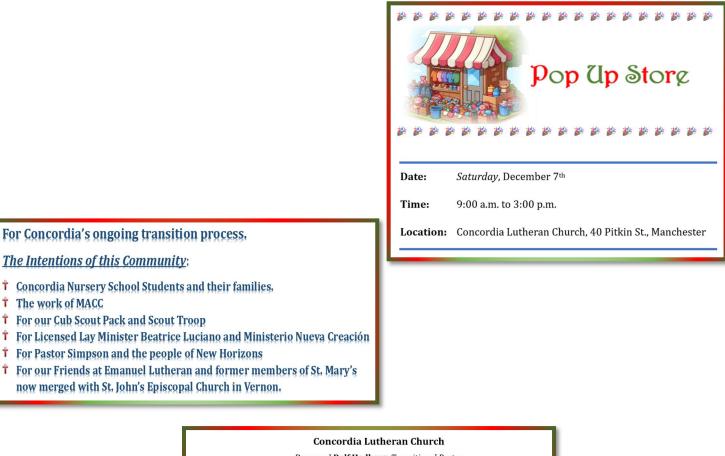
**†** For our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop

**†** The work of MACC

# Concordia Lutheran Church Calendar of Events



Date of Event	<u>Event</u>	<b>Location</b>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday, December 1, 2024	Executive Committee	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Friday, December 6, 2024	POP UP Store Set up	Concordia Lutheran Church	1 p.m. to TBA
Saturday, December 7, 2024	Pop Up Store	Concordia Lutheran Church	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, December 8, 2024	Council Meeting	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18	Holden Evening Prayer	Via Zoom - see flyer!	7:00-7:30 pm
	Congregation Meeting with		
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Pastor Maria Hammons	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	Concordia Lutheran Church	8 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Social		
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Gathering	Mark's House	Approx. 9:30 p.m.
	Healthy Snacks for Highland		
All throughout School Year	Park Elementary School	Concordia Lutheran Church	All Dav



Reverend Rolf Hedberg, Transitional Pastor Mrs. Margie Gallagher, Parish Administrator

🖂 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040 🛛 🕋 office@concordiamanchester.org ۲

(860)649-5311 www.concordiamanchester.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. With the exception of the lessons and a couple of prayers, the majority of the liturgy is sung. The liturgy lasts about one-half hour.

While it may be used at any time during the church year, it is especially appropriate during Advent because of the Magnificat included in the liturgy.

#### DECEMBER COFFEE CORNER

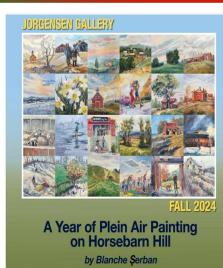
Join us Thursday, December 12th for MACC's Coffee Corner. Discuss the latest events and projects at MACC and learn how you and your organization can get involved. If you want to sign up for our next Coffee Corner please email Operations Manager Patti Thurlow @ pthurlow@macc-ct.org



Date of Event	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
	Night, Dreaming & Awakening	St. Bernard Catholic Church, 25	
Saturday, December 7, 2024	(Concert)	St. Bernard Ter., Vernon	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 12, 2024	MACC's Coffee Corner	MACC	See flyer
		St. James Episcopal Church, 1018	
Friday, December 13, 2024	Winter Starlight	Farmington Ave., West Hartford	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sep 14 - Saturday, Dec. 14	Air Painting On Horsebarn Hill	Jorgenson Gallery/UCONN	Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm
		United Congregational Church of	
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Messiah Sing	Tolland, 45 Tolland Green	3 p.m. See Flyer!
June 22 - July 20, 2025	Lutheran Summer Music '25	Valparaiso University in IN	See flyer/Scan QR Code

**COMMUNITY** 

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 



Sat, Sep 14 – Sat, Dec 14

J O R G E N S E N

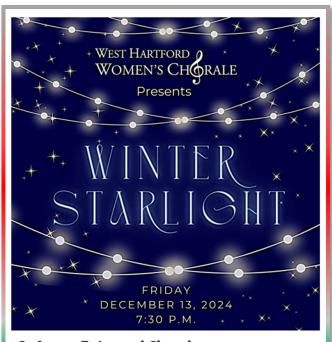
This fall Jorgensen Gallery will feature 366 canvases, painted plein air daily over the course of an entire year on Horsebarn Hill in Storrs by award-winning artist and educator, Blanche Şerban. Alternating panoramic views, local scenes, and minute subjects, the project poetically documents the light and the atmosphere on the hill rolling through the seasons. Based in Storrs, Serban said "I look to paint the air between things that hold the shape of seen and unseen, the transient beauty of changing light, the passing hours and seasons, the fragile balance between the wealth of the material world and the simplicity of formless.'

Fall 2024 Gallery Hours: Mon - Wed, 10 am - 4 pm Thurs, 1 pm - 4 pm Fri, 10 am - 4 pm

Scan me

UCONN





**St. James Episcopal Church** 1018 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT 06107 Tickets: \$15 At the Door, or Online at: <u>www.whwchorale.org</u>



45 Tollan Green Contact: (860) 875-4160 Web: <u>www.ucctolland.org</u>



# **Poinsettias for Christmas**



Each Christmas we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase poinsettias for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Christmas. We are also delighted to report that a brass quartet will provide special music Christmas Eve; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.

Each poinsettia plant costs \$15. Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the giver's discretion. Please attach payment with this form, and return to the church office by Tuesday, December 17th. Thank you.

I/We give poinsettia(s) to Concordia this Christmas Eve:				
In memory of:				
In honor of				
I/We give \$ to Concordia for <i>musicians:</i>				
In memory of:				
In honor of				
I/We give \$ to <i>support Concordia's ministries</i> in honor/in memory:				
In memory of:				
In honor of				
Name				
Phone Number or E-mail				
Poinsettias may be taken home after the December 24th service. Poinsettias that remain will adorn our worship space through the Christmas season.				